



Magic: A Very Short Introduction

Owen Davies

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Magic is a much-used term with a complex and controversial history. As a concept and a practice, it has attracted the attention of theologians, anthropologists, psychologists, sociologists, artists, and historians over the centuries. This Very Short Introduction explains why. Magic has been defined in terms of the false religions of others, as an evolutionary stage in human thought, a universal state of mind, and a liberating expression of the imagination. For hundreds of millions of people today, no matter their religious persuasion, magic is a real force that helps them to overcome misfortune, poverty, and illness. Indeed, with magic as relevant today as it ever was, it raises questions about the meaning of human progress.

Magic: A Very Short Introduction Details

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Aesha says

Reem Safi says

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Laith H says

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Lydia Wednesday says

I thought this was going to be a book about magic but it ended up being a very short history of Magic(k). Not what I was expecting but not upset about it either. Having read Owen Davies 'Paganism: A Very Short Introduction', I knew I was going to enjoy the book either way. Davies has a wonderful way of packing in a lot of information into a very small book (as advertised) and still finds a way to make it accessible and fun. Injecting just the right amount of humor too keep it from getting dry.

I'd definitely recommend this to anyone who is interested in the history of magic and is looking for a more global account.

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Basem Omar says

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Tabark Khalid says

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wasan bahir says

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Joseph F. says

Not bad for a **VERY** short introduction.

The author could have included more on the types of magic rather than so much on how magic is interpreted among anthropologists, historians, psychologists, etc.

Mohammed Alsalman says

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